

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 476

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Sheila Crowley on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, president and chief executive officer of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), Dr. Sheila Crowley is one such estimable person, who has announced she will be taking a much-deserved retirement in April of 2016 after leading the organization for more than seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, based in Washington, D.C., the National Low Income Housing Coalition is a nonprofit organization dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that assures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes; and

WHEREAS, during her time at the helm of NLIHC, Dr. Crowley achieved a number of victories for the affordable housing crisis. Her determined advocacy led to the creation of the National Housing Trust Fund, which was designed to build, preserve, rehabilitate, and operate rental homes for people with the lowest incomes, as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act in 2008; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Dr. Crowley initiated the United for Homes campaign that seeks to modify the mortgage interest deduction and use the revenue raised to fund the National Housing Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, she received a Rockefeller Foundation sponsored residence at the Bellagio Center in Italy to engage in research on how to reform the mortgage interest deduction; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her leadership of the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign, Dr. Crowley received the John W. Macy Award from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Housing Leadership Award from the National Low Income Housing Coalition in 2009, the Special Leadership Award from the National Housing Law Project, and the Champion in Supportive Housing Public Policy Award from the Corporation for Supportive Housing in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Crowley is an active and important part of her community and her profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the board of directors of the National Housing Trust, Enterprise Community Partners, and the Technical Assistance Collaborative, and lending her support to the National Housing Conference and the Coalition on Human Needs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crowley is also an adjunct faculty member for the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work and for George Mason University Department of Social Work, teaching social policy, social justice, policy advocacy, and community and organizational practice; and

WHEREAS, prior to her career with NLIHC, Sheila Crowley was the 1996-1997 Social Work Congressional Fellow, in which position she served on the Democratic staff of the Housing Subcommittee of the United States Senate Banking Committee; the executive director of The Daily Planet, a multipurpose homeless service and advocacy organization in Richmond, from 1984 to 1992; and the founding director in 1979 of the YWCA Women's Advocacy Program in Richmond, the shelter and service program for battered women and their children; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crowley earned a bachelor's degree, master's degree, and Ph.D., from the School of Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished career in social work, Dr. Crowley has received a number of awards from the VCU School of Social Work, including the Making a Difference Award in 2010, the Elaine Z. Rothberg Award for Outstanding Doctoral Student in 1998, the Alumni Star Award in 1998, and the Alumnus of the Year in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Crowley exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true public servant; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crowley is married to Kent Willis, executive director of the ACLU of Virginia, with whom she shares two daughters, Emily Fagan and Greta Gill, and six grandchildren: Caroline, Rebecca, Ava, Eric, Dean, and Tristan; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Dr. Crowley has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Dr. Sheila Crowley our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.